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ABSTRACT

In order to successfully implement an early childhood career development system, it is necessary to coordinate funds and training opportunities from many different sources. This action pack is designed to help individuals involved in such statewide efforts learn how to navigate the financing system that currently supports training for early care and education practitioners. It uses a process that views the various access points for training funds as "rooms" in a series of conceptual "houses." The guide contains four sections. Section 1, "The Financing Landscape: New Ways to Navigate Funding Streams," presents new thinking on how to identify the many training opportunities in a state, departing from the notion of funding streams and exploring the notion of "access points." It also discusses why and who should undertake this task in a given state. Section 2, "The Colorado Child Care and Early Childhood Training Neighborhood," uses Colorado as an example in identification of specific access points ("rooms" in conceptual "houses" in the state's training "neighborhood"). Section 3, "Navigating the System: How to Build Your Own Training Neighborhood," provides a step-by-step guide to creating a state training neighborhood and practical advice on sponsorship, key informants, and interview questions and techniques. Section 4, "A Sample Map of the Early Care and Education Financing Neighborhood," presents a list of generic houses and rooms that can serve as a guide in building a state training neighborhood. (EV)

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